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A35

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RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01199 052141Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CIAE-00	SJK-01	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00
	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SR-01
	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00
	/061W						

-----0BB265 052141Z /38

O 052140Z FEB 92 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8057
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
ARA COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 01199

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, ASEC, CASC, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: AFTER THE COUP/ FEBRUARY 5

REF: CARACAS 01156 AND PREVIOUS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. LIFE IN CARACAS IS IN MOST RESPECTS BACK TO NORMAL.
STREET TRAFFIC AND SHOPPING ARE AT PRE-ATTACK LEVELS.

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POLICE PRESENCE APPEARS (AT LEAST IN THE BETTER
NEIGHBORHOODS) NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE USUALLY
SEE. WE HAVE SOME ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE FROM EMBASSY FSNS
AND HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYEES THAT POLICE IN THE POORER AREAS
ARE ON THE STREETS AND A BIT ROUGH, BUT NO REPORTS AS YET
OF ANY SERIOUS INCIDENTS. NOR HAVE THERE BEEN ANY
REPORTED REPETITIONS TODAY OF SNIPING FROM SLUM
NEIGHBORHOODS AGAINST GOVERNMENT TROOPS, WHICH OCCURED
BRIEFLY FEBRUARY 4 ABOUT 1600.

2. CASUALTIES OF THE COUP ATTEMPT WERE APPARENTLY ABOUT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2006 200503206

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70 KIA AND SEVERAL HUNDRED WOUNDED. (14 LOYALISTS KIA AND 51 WOUNDED, CONFIRMED; THE REST WOULD BE REBELS). ONLY ONE CIVILIAN, A CHILD CRUSHED INADVERTENTLY BY A TANK, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN KILLED. NUMBER OF THOSE ARRESTED FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP IS ABOUT 1,000 ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BY DEFMIN OCHOA. SEPARATELY, PRESS REPORTS (AND DATT HAS CONFIRMED) THAT A MAJ. GEN. ALEXIS LANDAETA, A FORMER COMMANDER OF THE ARMoured DIVISION, WAS ARRESTED LAST NIGHT AS HE ATTEMPTED TO SLIP ACROSS THE COLOMBIAN BORDER. HE HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN PASSED OVER FOR A SENIOR COMMAND, HAD NO PROFESSIONAL FUTURE, AND IS CONSIDERED VERY POSSIBLY INVOLVED IN THE COUP ATTEMPT. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO JUNIOR OFFICERS, WHO WERE ALSO ARRESTED.

3. WE ARE HOLDING OUR MONTHLY BUSINESSMEN'S ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TONIGHT AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, WITH ABOUT 50 OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP BUSINESS FIGURES. WHEN WE CALLED MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO ASK IF THE MEETING WOULD VIOLATE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, VICE
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MINISTER ZAMBRANO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT POSITIVELY ENCOURAGED SUCH GATHERINGS, BECAUSE IT WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SITUATION HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES MAY NOT LAST THE FULL 10 DAYS.

4. INTERNAL LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONES ARE WORKING WORSE THAN EVER TODAY (IF THAT IS POSSIBLE), BUT FROM WHAT WE HEAR INDIRECTLY, THE SITUATION IN VALENCIA AND MARACAIBO HAS ALSO RETURNED TO NORMAL. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT ONLY A FEW INDIVIDUAL REBELS WHO ESCAPED AND WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN ROUNDEDUP REMAIN AT LARGE. THE MILITARY IS CONDUCTING A MASSIVE, NATION-WIDE INVENTORY OF WEAPONS; THERE IS CONCERN THAT SOME MA BE MISSING AND IN THE HANDS OF STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CARABOBO (VALENCIA) OR OTHERS WITH POTENTIAL FOR DESTABILIZING ACTIONS.
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